

Westminster Abbey



Diamond Jubilee of Toc H Service of Thanksgiving



Saturday
31 May 1975
1400

Our intention in this act of worship

This jubilee gives all of us in Toc H the opportunity to offer thanksgiving for the greatness of its simplicity. The strength of Toc H is that we do not organise specialised aid, but that small groups of people respond to the need for compassionate action where they live. In doing so, we have been given a glimpse of the divine purpose of life.

Toc H is concerned with the attitudes people have towards one another and tries to so arrange its affairs that conviction and conflict hold equal sway in daily life. The world needs Toc H because the places where controversy walks hand in hand with respect and trust must be kept open.

For those who see us, yet know nothing of us, we resolve to offer joyful evidence that love, laughter and commitment, as Christ ordained, are the foundations upon which the notion of one people in Christ can be built.

For meditation before the service:

I will pour out my spirit on your offspring and my blessing on your children.

There are plenty to follow our Lord half-way, but not the other half.

We have the means to love

We know the way to love

We lack only the will.

To Him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to Him be glory.

*Music before the Service played by Stephen Cleobury,
Sub-Organist of Westminster Abbey:*

Variations 'Mein junges Leben hat ein End': *Sweelinck*

Prelude and Fugue in B minor: *J S Bach*

Aria: *Peeters*

*Trumpet parts are played by members of the
Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall,
by permission of the Commandant
Director of Music: Lt-Col T Sharpe*

Order of Service

At 1400 the Dean and Chapter and other Officers of the Collegiate Body of the Church of St Peter in Westminster, together with the Preacher, move into the Church while the following hymn is sung:

Processional Hymn 257 A&MR second tune

Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
He whose word cannot be broken
Formed thee for his own abode.
On the Rock of ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

Round each habitation hovering,
See the cloud and fire appear
For a glory and a covering,
Showing that the Lord is near.
Thus they march, the pillar leading,
Light by night and shade by day;
Daily on the manna feeding
Which he gives them when they pray.

See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters,
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage:
Grace which, like the Lord the giver,
Never fails from age to age?

Saviour, since of Zion's city
I through grace a member am,
Let the world deride or pity,
I will glory in thy name.
Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
All his boasted pomp and show;
Solid joys and lasting treasure
None but Zion's children know.

F J Haydn 1732-1809

J Newton 1725-1807

Brass interludes arr Sir Arthur Bliss 1891-1975

The Dean, standing at the High Altar, says:

We welcome you to this ancient and holy place to give thanks for the founders of Toc H through whose talents, obedience and energy the influence of this movement has encompassed the world. We remember before God, with gratitude, the Old House in Poperinge; the Collegiate Church of All Hallows; the Marks, Services Clubs and Centres, Wardens and their teams taking responsibility for the well-being of their Houses; the courage, imagination and patience of Branches and groups, friendships forged and service given; the goodwill of countless thousands who have supported the membership of Toc H putting both money and skill at the disposal of our Family:

Wherefore let us keep silence and remember God's presence with us now.

All say together:

Eternal God, the same yesterday, today and forever,
whose loving-kindness is to every generation;
whose glory is the light within us;
whose forgiveness we all need;
renew in us a right spirit.
Revive our trust in Thy love;
set before us Thy joy;
and teach us all that belongs to our peace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the
kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn (tune: Dundee)

Praise waits for Thee in Zion, Lord;
To Thee vows paid shall be,
O Thou that hearer art of prayer,
All flesh shall come to Thee.

Bless'd is the man whom Thou dost
choose,
And mak'st approach to Thee,
That he within Thy courts, O Lord,
May still a dweller be.

We surely shall be satisfied
With Thy abundant grace,
And with the goodness of Thy house,
E'en of Thy holy place.

Therefore the ends of all the earth
And those afar that be
Upon the sea, their confidence,
O Lord, will place in Thee.

Scottish Psalter 1615

First Reading: Psalm CXLV, 4-13

Read by R A Coates, Toc H South Africa, from the Choir Pulpit

One generation shall praise thy works unto another: and declare thy power.
As for me, I will be talking of thy worship: thy glory, thy praise, and wondrous works;

So that men shall speak of the might of thy marvellous acts: and I will also tell of thy greatness.

The memorial of thine abundant kindness shall be shewed: and men shall sing of thy righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and merciful: long-suffering and of great goodness.

The Lord is loving unto every man: and his mercy is over all his works.

All thy works praise thee, O Lord: and thy saints give thanks unto thee.

They shew the glory of thy kingdom: and talk of thy power;

That thy power, thy glory, and mightiness of thy kingdom: might be known unto men.

Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom: and thy dominion endureth throughout all ages.

Silence

Second Reading: Mark IV, 1-9

Read by Shaku Asirvatham, Toc H India, from the Choir Lectern

And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.

And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,

Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:

And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.

And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:

But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Hymn 372 A&MR

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our
eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the
Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name
we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as
light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest
in might;
Thy justice like mountains high
soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of
goodness and love.

To all life thou givest, to both great
and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life
of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves
on the tree,
And wither and perish; but naught
changeth thee.

Great Father of glory, pure Father
of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling
their sight;
All laud we would render: O help us
to see
'Tis only the splendour of light hideth
thee.

Welsh Hymn Melody

W Chalmers Smith 1824-1908

*Arr Douglas Guest, Organist of
Westminster Abbey*

Third Reading: Part of 'Letters and Papers from Prison' by D Bonhoeffer

Read by R Mason, Toc H Canada, from the Nave Pulpit

Contempt for humanity?

There is a very real danger of our drifting into an attitude of contempt for humanity. We know full well that it would be very wrong, and that it would lead to the most sterile relation with our fellow men. Perhaps the following considerations will save us from this temptation. The trouble about it is that it lands us into the worst mistake of our enemies. The man who despises others can never hope to do anything with them. The faults we despise in others are always, to some extent at least, our own too. How often have we expected from others more than we are prepared to do ourselves! Why have we until now held such lofty views about human nature? Why have we not recognised its frailty and liability to temptation? We must form our estimate of men less from their achievements and failures, and more from their sufferings. The only profitable relationship to others—and especially to our weaker brethren—is one of love, that is the will to hold fellowship with them. Even God did not despise humanity, but became Man for man's sake.

Silence

Fourth Reading: 2 Corinthians V, 14-20

Read by Mrs Jean Liner, Toc H New Zealand, from the Grave of the Unknown Warrior

We are ruled by Christ's love for us, now that we recognize that one man died for all men, which means that all men take part in his death. He died for all men so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but only for him who died and was raised to life for their sake. No longer, then, do we judge anyone by human standards. Even if at one time we judged Christ according to human standards, we no longer do so. When anyone is joined to Christ he is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come.

All this is done by God, who through Christ changed us from enemies into his friends, and gave us the task of making others his friends also.

Our message is that God was making friends of all men through Christ. God did not keep an account of their sins against them, and he has given us the message of how he makes them his friends.

Here we are, then, speaking for Christ, as though God himself were appealing to you through us: on Christ's behalf, we beg you, let God change you from enemies into friends!

Anthem

Hail, gladdening light, of his pure glory pour'd

Who is the immortal Father, heavenly, blest,

Holiest of holies, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest,

The lights of evening round us shine,

We hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Divine.

Worthiest art thou at all times to be sung

With undefiled tongue,

Son of our God, giver of life, alonel

Therefore in all the world thy glories, Lord, they own.

C Wood 1866-1926

2nd or 3rd century

Tr J Keble 1792-1866

Address

Preacher: The Reverend K G Bloxham BD

Vice-President of Toc H

The Prayers

Led by the Reverend Neil Collings

Chaplain of Westminster Abbey

As members of Toc H, remembering the richness of our inheritance and the vocation which constrains us in the present, let us renew our faith in God's abiding presence in the world that he made and in the hearts of men:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth

And God saw everything that he had made
that it was very good
Let us renew our thanksgiving
for the beauty of our created world,
the heavens, the sea and the earth;
for the rhythm of day and night,
and the changing seasons on which we depend for health and food

All:

Thou by whose unfailing bounty we draw our life and all that we have,
forgive our pride and self-sufficiency.
Teach us to reverence the earth,
which thou hast made fruitful,
and our unity with those by whose work we are fed, clothed and housed.
Deepen our compassion for all who have less than we have,
who are without food or home,
or the resources to buy them.
As thou hast given us the knowledge which can produce plenty,
so give us also the wisdom and the will
to bring it within the reach of all;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Beloved, let us love one another,
for love is of God
and he who loves is born of God and knows God.

O God, by whose Spirit we have been drawn together as a family,
moving among men and women divided by race, creed and wealth;
enable us to understand how powerful for good we could be
if in humility we learn from one another as we enter gladly
into the richness of our daily life and leisure,
sustained by the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Be assured that His steadfast love endures for ever,
and His faithfulness to all generations.

V Lord hear our prayer

R And let our cry come unto thee.

Let us renew our thanksgiving
for our heritage in a society
which has sought to uphold freedom of opinion for all,
the rights of every citizen, and to encourage in them
a sense of responsibility for the ordering of the common life.
Especially do we remember
the contribution of Toc H to this heritage through sixty years;
the vision of our founders, the faithfulness of those who

have worked with them, and the inspiration flowing from all members of Toc H in whom we see the light of God's grace.

V Lord hear our prayer

R And let our cry come unto thee.

O God our Father

let us not be content to wait passively upon the future
but give to us the determination to mould it according to Thy will.
Save us from that acceptance of things as they are
which is akin to cowardice.

Give us the courage to commit ourselves wholly to Thy kingdom
and to the building up amongst all the making of one people.

V Lord hear our prayer

R And let our cry come unto thee.

The Dean of Poperinge gives a Flemish Blessing

Offerings for Toc H

Hymn 166 A&MR

All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, his praise forth
tell,

Come ye before him, and rejoice.

The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make:
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth
adore,

From men and from the angel-host
Be praise and glory evermore.

L Bourgeois c 1500-61

Arr R Vaughan Williams 1872-1958

W Kethe, Day's Psalter 1561

The Blessing

Fanfare

The National Anthem

God save our gracious Queen,
Long live our noble Queen,
God save the Queen.
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us:
God save the Queen.

Not on this land alone—
But be God's mercies known
From shore to shore.
Lord make the nations see
That men should brothers be,
And form one family
The wide world o'er.

Organ Music after the Service:

Transports de joie: *Messiaen*

The Bells of the Abbey Church are now rung.

**The Congregation are requested not to leave their seats
until directed by the Stewards.**

